

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of April 18, 2005**

- 1. Laurel Avenue Streetscape Project (Wards 1 & 3):** In the past week, the sidewalk was removed from Pizza Movers to the Post Office. A new concrete sidewalk, tree pits, structural soils were installed, and the street was repaved to the curb. Work planned for next week (April 25 - May 1) includes the demolition of the sidewalk from the Post Office to Everyday Gourmet, a new sidewalk will be poured, the street lamps will be repaired and the tree boxes, structural soils, and brick installed, weather permitting. Laurel Avenue will be closed to through traffic on Sunday in the event the Farmer's Market needs the street to place additional vendors, as the additional lot on Willow Avenue is not available. For more information please contact Ilona Blanchard (301) 891-7205 or ilonab@takomagov.org. *(Housing and Community Development)*
- 2. Carroll Avenue Streetscape Project (Wards 1 & 3):** The Carroll Avenue Streetscape Project (www.cityoftakomapark.org) is scheduled to begin May 23. The project will begin with construction at the corner of Philadelphia and Carroll Avenues. For more information please contact Ilona Blanchard (301) 891-7205 or ilonab@takomagov.org. *(Housing and Community Development)*
- 3. Tenant Opportunity to Purchase (Ward 5):** Tenants residing at 8306 Roanoke Avenue (6 units) and 8342 Eastridge Avenue (6 units) have received notices that the rental properties where they live are for sale. Third party contracts have been executed for both properties. The Roanoke property is being sold for \$566,000 with the building on Eastridge for \$550,000. Letters were sent to the tenants by the owners and the city advising them of their rights to purchase. *(Housing and Community Development)*
- 4. Gateway and Wayfinding Signage:** The Signage Advisory Committee met this week to provide input on the sign color and the mock-ups of the directional signs. The committee's input will be provided to the Council for the May 2 Council meeting. *(Housing and Community Development)*
- 5. DC Section of Metropolitan Branch Trail:** The final draft of the MBT Concept Plan is available for review. The draft can be found on-line at www.metbranchtrail.com. The Concept Plan proposes that there be both western and eastern alignments for the trail in Takoma, DC. The eastern alignment would go along Maple Street, Carroll Street, Cedar Street, and Eastern Avenue as either a side path or on-street trail, depending on the section. If you would like a CD-ROM copy of the plan, please contact Chris Holben, DDOT project Manager at 202-671-2638 or email at chris.holben@dc.gov. DDOT will be accepting comments on the plan for 45 days starting April 22, 2005 and ending June 5, 2005. Comments can be made on the MBT website or emailed to Chris Holben. *(Housing and Community Development)*
- 6. TASDI:** The last meeting of the Residents' Committee on Tax and Service Duplication Issues was held Tuesday night. The Committee's final report will be presented to the City Council on Monday evening. A key finding of the report is that

Montgomery County should be paying \$1.1 million to \$4.8 million more per year to the City of Takoma Park for the tax duplication rebate. A copy of the report can be found on the City's web page, www.cityoftakomapark.org. (*Community & Government Liaison*)

7. Traffic Enforcement (Wards 1, 4, 5, & 6): About three-quarters of the week's traffic stops ended with citations being issued. Speed enforcement locations included University Blvd. and Piney Branch Road. (*Police*)

8. C-SAFE (Ward 6): The C-SAFE team and Ofc. Butler, the COP Team X-Sector Specialist, will hold a community meeting on Health and Safety in Hampshire Towers on April 26 at 7 p.m. The topics will be what the community can do to reduce crime and improve the community. Information will be offered about an April 30 leadership summit. (*Police*)

9. Staff & Officers in Training: Two officers and the victim/witness services coordinator attended Lethality Assessment Training for Domestic Violence Professionals, a one-day program. Administrative Services Commander Denise Pullet attended a three-day training on UCR (crime reporting) requirements. Two officers attended a four-day training entitled, "Gangs: A Perspective in Maryland." (*Police*)

10. Personnel: Four officers were promoted to PFC (private first class): E. Atwell, S. Barsch, D. McDowell and M. Mitchell. Seven applicants of 22 tested on April 16, passed the police entrance exam. For the April 17 dispatcher entrance exam, 14 passed out of 24 applicants. Oral interviews are being scheduled for those successful applicants. (*Police*)

11. Community Meetings (All Wards): The X-Sector Specialist Ofc. Joe Butler and Chief Creamer attended a residents' meeting regarding issues on Colby Avenue (Ward 2). The W-Sector Specialist Ofc. Cyndy Conrad held the bimonthly meeting for apartment managers (Ward 4). Capt. Coursey attended a meeting regarding area crime issues at the Silver Spring District station (All wards). (*Police*)

12. Top Cop: The Takoma Park Lions Club dinner to honor the TPPD 2004 Officer of the Year Det/Sgt. Richard Poole and the TPVFD 2004 Member of the Year Jerry Sanford was held Tuesday evening. In addition to the honorees, Chief Creamer and Lt. Cipperly (Poole's supervisor) attended. (*Police*)

13. Damage to the Library: On April 8, a rush of water, occasioned by construction between the Library and new learning center, caused water damage to many of the Library's Takoma Park files, including some historical materials and back issues of City newsletters. Due to Rebecca Brown's quick thinking, and the assistance of many City staff with the loan of hair dryers and fans, almost all important materials were salvaged. (*Library*)

14. Poem Reading: An enthusiastic gathering of mostly adults crowded into the Library's children's room on Thursday evening to hear people read some of their favorite

poems. This year's Favorite Poem evening was held in the more intimate Library setting, due to construction in and around City Hall. Afterwards, organizers and participants stayed to enjoy refreshments and conversation. *(Library)*

15. Girls Approached: On April 11, an adult male approached several young girls in and outside the Library in an inappropriate manner. Due to the prompt action of Library staffer Dave Burbank in contacting Police, the individual was quickly apprehended less than a block from the Library. *(Library)*

16. Long Branch Task Force (Ward 5): The last working meeting of the Long Branch Task Force was held Thursday to finalize its recommendations of the third and final report of the Committee to the County Council. A formal presentation of the report to the County Council and the community will be held on May 19. A major concern of the Committee is budget cutting by the County Council that may jeopardize a number of the Committee's key recommendations. *(Community & Government Liaison)*

17. Street Renovations (Wards 1, 2, & 3): This week, as a part of the street renovation program, curb, gutter and driveway aprons were replaced on Garland Avenue from Carroll Avenue to Central Avenue as well as on Minter Place from Garland to Jackson Avenue. Street renovation work will start on Westmoreland Avenue from Carroll Avenue to the Walnut, Elm and Westmoreland intersection. Streetscaping and a handicap access ramp are also planned for this intersection. Asphalt resurfacing on Maple Avenue from Philadelphia to the city limits will start next week, followed by traffic calming structure installations. *(City Engineer, Public Works)*

18. White Water Rafting: On Sunday, April 18, the Takoma Park Recreation Department led a group of 21 participants ranging in ages from 8 - 59 years old white water rafting on the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers in Historic Harpers Ferry. For many this was their first time rafting and they are already looking forward to next year's trip! *(Recreation)*

19. The City at a Fair: The Recreation Department is going to be represented at the Blair Fair tonight at Blair High School. The main objectives are to meet high school students, promote our programs and recruit part time summer and year round staff. *(Recreation)*

20. Spring Programs: The Takoma Park Recreation Department Spring Programs are now underway. The always popular tennis clinic is filled up with 42 kids taking part in this after school program. The after school soccer clinic runs twice per week for 1st - 5th grade kids. We have 25 kids signed up so far. Kids are learning fundamental skills and having fun at the same time! *(Recreation)*